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ITEM NO: WH-3

DATE: 27 AUGUST 1974

SUBJECT: NEW GOVERNMENT IN ICELAND

INDEPENDENCE PARTY CHAIRMAN GEIR HALLGRIMSON HAS BEEN SELECTED PRIME MINISTER IN ICELAND'S NEW RIGHT-CENTER COALITION WHICH INCLUDES THE MODERATE PROGRESSIVE PARTY. HALLGRIMSON IS PRO-WEST AND GENERALLY FAVORS RETENTION OF THE US-MANNED NATO BASE IN ITS PRESENT FORM. THE NEW COALITION WILL HAVE 42 SEATS IN THE 60-SEAT PARLIAMENT.

EACH PARTY IN THE COALITION WILL HAVE FOUR CABINET MINISTERS. PROGRESSIVE EINAR AGUSTSSON RETAINS HIS POST AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUE, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN, BECOMES JUSTICE AND COMMERCE MINISTER. THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY, GUNNAR THORODDSEN, REPORTEDLY WILL RECEIVE THE INDUSTRIES PORTFOLIO. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET HAVE NOT

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